

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT
Goose Creek C & H
Grazing Year 2021**

The following letter will document your meeting with Bob Price and Chris Gee on March 10, 2021 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2021 grazing season on the **Goose Creek C & H Allotment**. The Goose Creek allotment was not damaged in the Badger fire; however, the Beaver Dam fence line was ruined in the fire. The fence line should be replaced as soon as supplies are available and if turn out occurs before a daily check will be required to prevent livestock from entering the burn area. The District Ranger has approved the replacement of the old water pipeline system and this should be done prior to turn out also. The District Ranger will need to approve any other major improvements not previously approved in writing, any changes to this AOI.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Goose Creek Allotment:

| PERMITTEE(S) | Permitted Numbers | Permitted Season of Use | Authorized Numbers | Authorized Season of Use |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Bruce Bedke | 165 c/c Forest 33 c/c BLM | 5/11-11/15 * | 165 c/c Forest 33 c/c BLM | 5/11-11/15 * |
| Bedke's Stacked C Ranch LLC | 716 c/c Forest 218 c/c BLM | 5/11-10/15 * | 716 c/c Forest 218 c/c BLM | 5/11-10/15* |
| Michael Poulton | 251 c/c Forest 48 c/c BLM 18 HM's Layton PVT Pasture | 5/11-11/15 * | 251c/c Forest 48 c/c BLM 18 HM's Layton PVT Pasture | 5/11-11/15 * |
| Winecup Inc. | 484 c/c Forest | 5/11-11/15 * | 484 c/c Forest | 5/11-11/15 * |
| *FS/BLM MOU dated 8/03/96 allows additional cattle on the Goose Creek allotment from 5/11 to 11/15. Bedke Stacked C Ranch LLC will be running a shorter season and will come off the allotment after 10/15 and will not come back. | | | | |
| TOTAL LIVESTOCK | 1616 c/c Forest 299 c/c BLM | 5/11-11/15 (5/11-10/15 Stacked C Ranch) | 1616 c/c Forest 299 c/c BLM | 5/11-11/15 (5/11-10/15 Stacked C Ranch) |

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

| PASTURE | No. of LIVESTOCK | DATE ON | DATE OFF |
|---|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Piney Unit | 1798 | 8/7 | 10/7 |
| On October 3 everyone will leave the Piney unit and trail to private ground to wean before returning to the remaining units. Livestock will be trailed thru the Lower Trout Creek Riparian Pasture without stopping. Livestock will not be allowed to overnight inside the Lower Trout Creek riparian pasture but rather pushed through and moved beyond the East fence line. Use in this pasture should not exceed five days for the entire season. | | | |
| NE/Jay Unit/Orangeburg & BLM Coal Banks/Lower Beaver Dam | 1199 | 10/7 | 11/15 |
| Michael Poulton has a variable season for use on the Layton Private use pasture not to exceed 18 head months from May 11 to November 15. After weaning Michael Poulton will return for fall use in Orangeburg Unit. Winecup will return to the BLM in the fall for use in the Reservoir unit. Bedke's Stacked C Ranch LLC will not return to the allotment after they trail off. Bruce/Jared Bedke is planning on using the Bedke private pasture in the fall. Generally everyone will return to the allotment on or around 10/16. Please notify the Forest Service and BLM when you plan on returning. | | | |

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|
| (Herd 1-Lone Cedar/Owens Corral Unit & BLM Reservoir Unit) (Herd 2-Dry Gulch Unit & BLM Coal Banks/Lower Beaver Dam Unit) | 1915 | 5/11 | 7/1 |
| The BLM Reservoir Unit should be used for approximately 13 days with full numbers before livestock are allowed to enter the Forest. Approximately half of the livestock will turn onto the Forest in Lone Cedar/Owens Corral (Herd 1-Stacked C Ranch). The other half of the livestock will enter the Forest through Dry Gulch (Herd 2). Stacked C Ranch will switch back to the Herd 2 rotation in 2021, this rotation will continue every 2 years. | | | |
| Upper Beaver Dam Unit/ NE/Jay Unit | 1915 | 7/2 | 8/6 |
| *Livestock will be split evenly and distributed throughout both of these units for approximately the same time. This will reduce pressure on the Orangeburg riparian areas. | | | |

1. All bulls or livestock over six months of age will be considered as a permitted animal. Livestock will be permitted on the allotment only for the season, numbers, and allotment shown on the Bill for Collection and after payment has been received.
2. Dates for rotation are to be considered approximate, actual dates will be determined by utilization levels. When utilization levels are reached for a particular unit, the cattle will be removed from that unit and placed in the next unit, or removed from the allotment as a whole if no units remain.

The dates are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, herding, and other permittee practices. It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is exceeded. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date.

COMPLIANCE:

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing pasture move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Range Specialist to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.**

With multiple uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.

Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES:

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit in your rotation or off the allotment to avoid exceeding the standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. The allowable use standards are listed below. If you need assistance with monitoring use, please contact your Range Specialist. In 2019, utilization levels were exceeded on some riparian areas, extra attention on riparian utilization needs to occur in 2020 to ensure use levels meet Forest Plan Standards. Permittees will also be notified when monitoring will be occurring and can attend if desired.

RIPARIAN SITES: Maximum 45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges or a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

UPLAND SITES: Early season pastures: 40% use of key species. With slow growth of vegetation, after seed ripe, or late season pastures: 50% use of key species (mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail).

IMPROVEMENTS:

Range improvements listed in Part Three of your grazing permit must be maintained to a proper functioning condition *before livestock enter the allotment*. The maintenance standards listed in Part Three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. As a reminder, if you need to use any mechanized machinery (such as tracked equipment), a written authorization from the District Ranger is required prior to use of that machinery. No ground disturbing activities or new construction involving machinery should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel, without approval in writing from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.

Wildlife escape ramps must be installed in troughs, and be in contact with the side of the trough. Contact your Range Specialist to request any wildlife ramps that you need.

We will be coordinating with you during the field season to go out and go look at water developments and maintenance needs and reconstruction need.

PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, campgrounds and trails.

Place salt a minimum of a ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments and salting areas. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment(s). All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:

This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees' authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel **TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:** Management on the Minidoka Ranger District.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on closed roads and trails (non-system routes) for improvement maintenance purposes only. Activities should be planned to avoid high use periods, such as hunting season and weekends, to reduce conflict with the general public. Motorized access in Seasonal Closure areas is not pre-authorized; permission to access these areas must be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. are not authorized for your use, except in the limited instances where there may be structural improvements that need occasional maintenance.

Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized. Cross-country travel may be authorized for project-specific purposes only. The District Ranger must authorize these activities in writing in advance of the specific project. **Per Travel Management direction, livestock may not be gathered or herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. Placement of salt using an ATV/UTV off-road (cross-country) is not authorized.** Violation of this direction may result in a fine and Violation Notice or a Notice of Non-Compliance.

BILLING:

The 2021 grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month. The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees; payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. Please pay your bill by the stated due-date. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit.

You may make payment in one of three ways:

- I. Mail your payment the National Finance Center (NFC) at:

USDA Forest Service
C/O US Bank
P.O. Box 6200-09
Portland, OR 97228-6200

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

- II. Or, pay your bill online at: WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY. Save your receipt of payment.
- III. Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm via check, cash or money order at the Ranger District office.

Contact Courtney Keith, Support Services Supervisor at the Minidoka Ranger District (208)677-0430 if you have questions about paying your bill online.

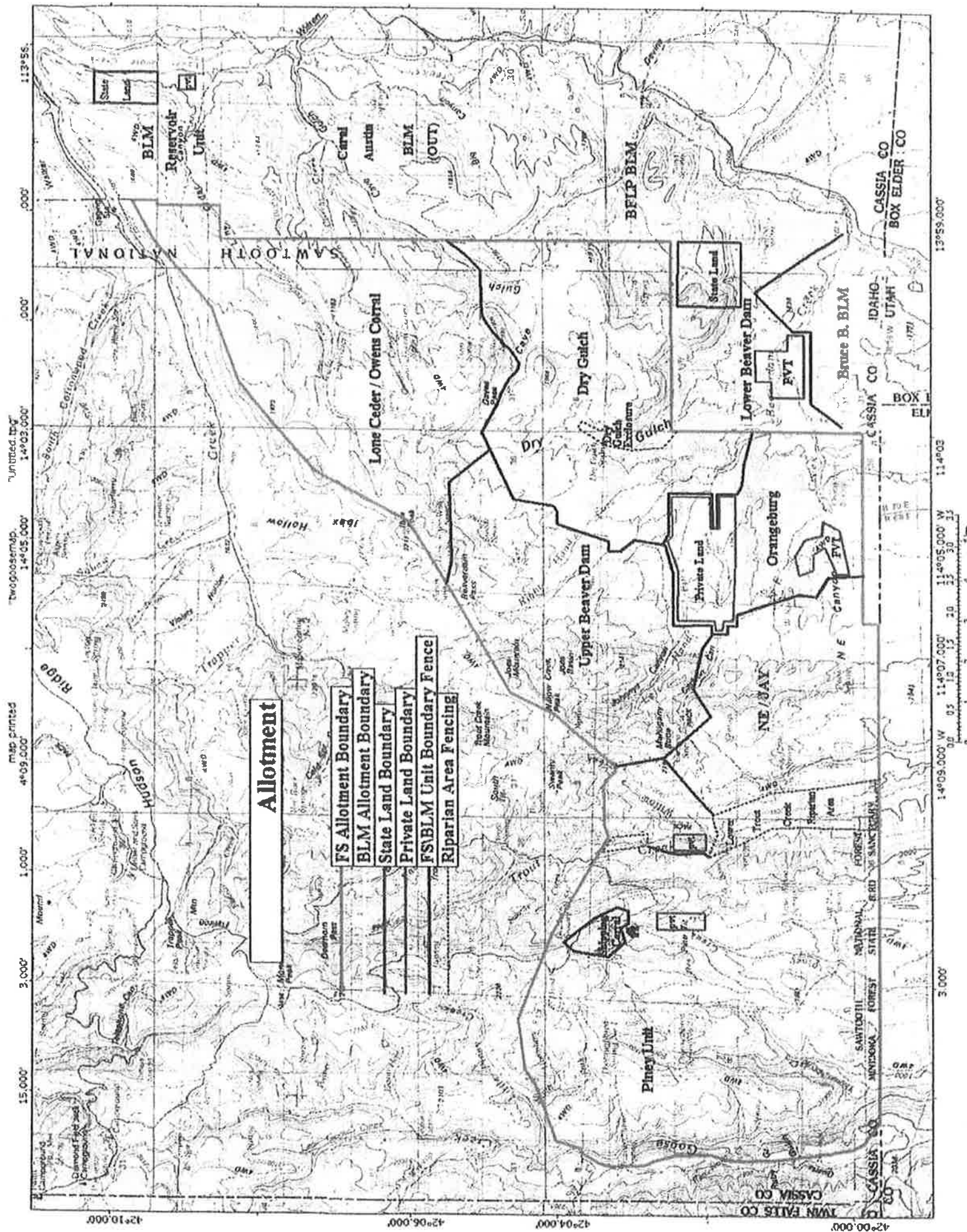
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

As a reminder, requests for personal convenience non-use must be submitted in writing; approval is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use request with the permittee. Full or partial personal convenience non-use may be approved by the District Ranger for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

If you are planning to waive your Term Grazing Permit based on either sale of permitted livestock or base property, please submit this intention in writing, with ample notice, to the District Ranger prior to the transaction.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please use these forms to track your livestock management and range improvement work throughout the grazing season. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grazing season, please call Bob Price at (208) 677-8290.



2021
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
Goose Creek
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT

Recommended by: _____ Date: _____

Rangeland Management Specialist
/

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____

Permittee

Approved by: Rory A. Sherry Date: 5/13/2021

District Ranger

Please sign and date this cover sheet and return to my office. Upon signature by the District Ranger, these Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit.

